



FROM THE AMBON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

512 WINTER ST., OLD FORGE, PA

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Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

Chair - Tammy Wytovich (chair@stmichaelof.org)

Vice Chair - Danny Pregmon (vicechair@stmichaelof.org)

Treasurer - Maura Elko (treasurer@stmichaelof.org)

Secretary - Vitaliy Rakovskiy (office@stmichaelof.org)

April 7th, 2024 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 3. Veneration of the Cross. Repose of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and Enlightener of North America (1925—March 25 O.S.). St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Mytilene (9th c.). Ven. Daniel, Abbot of Pereslavl-Zalessky (1540). Martyr Calliopos at Pompeiopolis in Cilicia (304). Martyrs Rufinus the Deacon, Aquilina, and 200 soldiers with them at Sinope (ca. 310). Ven. Serapion of Egypt (5th c.).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for April

Birthdays: Rodion Shepherd (04/04); Maximus Shepherd (04/06); +John Snopek (04/13); Philip Pecuch Jr. (04/17);

Nameday: Marie Pasternak (04/01);

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers: Paul Dunay, Jason, Emily, Silas, Judah, Nadia Hart

Prospora Schedule: HELP! We need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it. We will need more prospora during Great Lent for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays.*

April 7th Fr Michael

April 14th

Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations!"

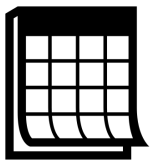
April 7th

April 14th

Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for lunch at the agape meal to replenish our supplies

PLEASE SING ALONG! Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



Service Schedule

(Please refer to Calendar)

Mission Vespers Holy Trinity, Strousburg, PA 4:00PM

MON, Apr 8th: @ 5:00PM Great Compline

WED, Apr 10th: @ 5:00PM Presanctified Liturgy

FRI, Apr 12: @ 5:00PM Little Compline

SAT, Apr 13th: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

SUN, Apr 14th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 4. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*).



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone, a Psalm of David: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Reader: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Reader: O Lord, save Thy people

Choir: And bless Thine inheritance.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

Priest: Let us attend!

[(311) Hebrews 4:14-5:6] Brethren: Since we have a great High Priest Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. * For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. * Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. * For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. * He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. * Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. * And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. * So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten Thee"; * as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: In the 8th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: God is our King before the ages: He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL

[(37) Mark 8:34-9:1] The Lord said: If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. * For whoever would save his life shall lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's shall save it. * For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? * For what can a man give in return for his life? * For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him shall the Son of Man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." * And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.

Hebrews 4:15 The One in Whom Human Nature Was Innocent. St Leo the Great:

What has been instilled in our hearts, if not that we should be “renewed” through them all “after the image” of that one who, remaining “in the form of God,” condescended to become “the form of sinful flesh”? He assumed all those weaknesses of ours that come as a result of sin, though “without” any part in “sin.” Consequently, he lacked none of the afflictions due to hunger and thirst, sleep and weariness, sadness and tears. He endured grievous sorrows even to the point of death. No one could be released from the fetters of mortality unless he, in whom alone the nature of all people was innocent, should allow himself to be killed by the hands of wicked persons.

Our Savior, the Son of God, gave both a mystery and an example to all who believe in him, so that they might attain to the one by being reborn and arrive at the other by imitation. Blessed Peter the apostle teaches this, saying, “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.” **Sermon 63.**

Mark 8:36 What Does It Profit One to Gain the Whole World? The Enjoyment of Earthly Goods. Clement of Alexandria:

Those who neglect good works may fail to grasp just how much the good work of God has benefited them. Hence they are less capable of praying fittingly so as to receive good things from God. And even if they receive them, they will likely be unaware of what has been given them. And even if they enjoy them, they will not enjoy worthily what they have not understood. For from their lack of knowledge they will not grasp how to use the good things given them. And from their impulsiveness they will remain ignorant of how to avail themselves of the divine gifts offered. **Stromateis 6.14.**

A Guide to the Triodion & Lent

9. Third Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of the Holy Cross

On the third Sunday of the Great Fast, we celebrate the Veneration of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross.

Since through the forty-day Fast we are also crucified in a certain way, deadened as we are by the passions, and feel a sense of bitterness, so that we become exhausted and fall down, for this reason the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is set forth, to refresh and strengthen us, and to remind us of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It exhorts us with this thought: If our God was crucified for us, how much ought we to do for Him! It lightens our burdens by comparing them with the afflictions of the Master. It reminds us of the glory that comes through the Cross and gives us the hope of this glory. For, as our Savior ascended the Cross and was glorified by being led around dishonorably, and by the bitter treatment that He received, so must we also act, in order that we may be glorified with Him, even if we suffer some unpleasantness for a time.

"By the power of Thy Cross, O Christ our God, protect us from the assaults of the Evil One, and vouchsafe us, having passed through the arena of the forty days with ease, to venerate Thy Divine Passion and Thy Life-Bearing Resurrection and have mercy on us, for Thou alone art good and loves mankind."

The Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

The Eucharistic Divine Liturgy is not celebrated in the Orthodox Church on Lenten weekdays. In order for the faithful to sustain their Lenten effort by participation in Holy Communion, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served. The service is an ancient one in the Orthodox Church. We officially hear about it in the canons of the seventh century, which obviously indicates its development at a much earlier date.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is an evening service. It is the solemn Lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the eucharistic gifts at the presanctified liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, unless, of course, the feast of the Annunciation should intervene; hence its name of "presanctified".

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served on Wednesday and Friday evening (or on Wednesday evening and Friday morning), although some churches may celebrate it only on one of these days. It comes in the evening after a day of spiritual preparation and total abstinence. The faithful who are unable to make the effort of total fasting because of weakness or work, however, normally eat a light Lenten meal in the late morning/early afternoon and should fast from after 12pm.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is traditionally considered to be the work of the sixth-century pope, Saint Gregory of Rome. The present service, however, is obviously the inspired liturgical creation of Christian Byzantium.

How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
\$200	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
\$500	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
\$750	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
\$1000	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100
\$1500	\$30	\$60	\$75	\$150

WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, **and** all the blessings we receive through her.

April Income: \$4,465.00

April Expense: \$0.00

Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$3,740.85

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$14,963.58



Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or after vespers. You can make an appt for confession.

Catechumen/Inquirers/Continuing ED Class: Icon Class 3-4:30

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help! Please come and help maintain the Church and its grounds.

Monthly Panikhida: No Panikhida.

Parish Council Meeting: 07April - TODAY! All are invited.

Change in Schedule to Holy Week:

Monday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Michael in Jermyn

Tuesday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at All Saints in Olyphant

Wednesday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Michael In Old Forge

Wednesday evening: Holy Unction at St. Nicholas in Olyphant

Thursday: 8am Hours and Vesperal Liturgy with Consecration of Holy Chrism at St Tikhon's Monastery

CONFESSION: It is important that every Orthodox Christian continues to receive the Mystery of Confession on a monthly basis and especially during the Lenten season. In the coming weeks, Fr. Michael will be available for Confession on Wednesdays, after the Liturgy of the Presanctified, after Great Vespers (Sat), or by appointment. If you wish to come before these services, please let him know ahead of time. Please, note that Friday, April 26th (the day before Lazarus Saturday) is the last day when Fr. Michael will hear Confessions before Pascha. When we enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, our focus must be exclusively on walking with our Lord through His passion.

Pascha Flowers: Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being accepted so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General Donations for Palm Sunday should be placed in the donation box. Please write "Flowers for Lent" in the memo. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers "In Memory of" or "For the Health of" a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations in the donation box or mail them to the Church, OR drop it in the rectory mailbox attention "Treasurer." As always, your loved ones will be remembered in our services in prayer. Envelopes can be picked at the candle stand.

Take Out Chicken Barbeque: Hosted by Arcaro and Genells Saturday, June 22nd from 12PM-3PM. The price will be \$13 a ticket. Everyone will be given two tickets to sell (you can purchase more if you like). Sandy and Tammy will hand them out on April 14th.

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed: *Michael* Brown (3/15)

Departed: *Michael* Marko (4/16); *John* Marko (4/18); *Mary* Marko (4/19); *Sonia* Schuster (4/24)

Please remember in your prayers LIVING

Ill-afflicted *Archpriests* *Michael* Evans, *John* Nightingale, & *Theodore* Orzolek

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: *David* Lezinsky, *John* Pritchuk, *Christine* Sevensky, *Mike* Jadick, *Margaret* Pregmon, *Daniel* Jones, *Matushka* Paula Soucek, *Michael* Sokol; *Michael* Krenitsky; *The children of God* *Abigail* and *Nathan*.

Servants of God *Mark* Bezhuly, *David* Barsigian, *Patricia* Jones, *Anne* Buday, *Mary* Krevko, *Gregory* Krevko, *Emily* Krenitsky, *Gregory* Krenitsky, *Barbara* Sevensky, *Bernie & Beverly* Elko, *Sandra* Condon, *Marie* Pasternak, *Ann* Tyrpak, *Sandy & Danny* Pregmon, *Walter* Pritchuk, *Michael & Euphemia* Keklak, *Justin & Elisabeth* Kane, *Maria & Vitaliy* Rakovsky, *Ekaterina & Anna*, *Joe & Kelly* Cigna, *George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia* Coyoy, *Paul & MaryAnn* Newmeyer, *Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina* Shepherd, *Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas* Hart, *Eli & Paula* Stavisky, *Helen* Wytovich, *Tammy* Wytovich, *Sharissa & Debra, Nadia* Macheska, *Paulette* Ezbiansky, *Maura* Elko

Seekers - *Christopher, Eugene, Mike, Brayden, Barbara*

Catechumen - *Jason* Vo, *Santo* Joseph Cerminaro, *Mikayla* Brown, *JoAnne* Snopek & *Paul* Dunay